

MEMORANDUM

TO: Luis Alejandro, Chief, Water Management Section (USACE)

FROM: John Mitnik, Director, Operations, Engineering & Construction Division (SFWMD)
Akin Owosina, Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Bureau (SFWMD)

DATE: November 17, 2016

SUBJECT: Operational Position Statement for November 15, 2016 to November 21, 2016

This Position Statement is for the one-week period from November 15, 2016 to November 21, 2016. On November 14, Lake Okeechobee stage was 15.15 feet NGVD, in the middle third of the Low Sub-band. The lake stage is no longer within one foot of the Intermediate Sub-band of the 2008 LORS. During last week the lake stage decreased 0.15 feet.

District rainfall for November up to date is well below average. District rainfall is forecast to be below-average for the next two weeks.

Precipitation Outlook: The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) precipitation outlook for November indicates a slightly increased likelihood (~38%) of below-normal rainfall for south Florida. For the three-month window November to January, the likelihood of below-normal rainfall remains the same for areas south of Lake Okeechobee; the lake and areas north of the lake have a higher likelihood (~45%) for below normal rainfall. For the same areas and for the window December-February, the likelihood of below-normal rainfall increases by 5%. The CPC outlook for the remainder of the 2017 dry season months is for moderate chances of below-normal rainfall to equal chances of below-normal, normal and above-normal rainfall.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part C): With Lake Okeechobee stage within the Low Sub-band, Part C of the 2008 LORS release guidance recommends "Up to Maximum Practicable to the WCAs if desirable or with minimum Everglades Impacts. Otherwise no releases to the WCAs".

Over the 7-day period from November 7, 2016 to November 13, 2016, a total of 28,600 acre-feet were delivered south from Lake Okeechobee through the three major EAA canals and the L-8 canal. Of this volume, inflows into STAs were as follows: 800 acre-feet to STA-1E (via L-8 canal), 1,300 acre-feet to STA-1W, no inflow to STA-2 and incidental inflows to STA-3/4 and the A-1 FEB of 400 and 100 acre-feet, respectively. The remainder of the releases from the lake south were to supplement agricultural irrigation needs in the EAA. Releases from the lake to tide via C-10A, L-8 and C-51 amounted to about 400 acre-feet.

The WCA-1 stage is in the water supply zone. The USACE continues to request the SFWMD send Lake regulatory releases to WCA-1. These releases will be implemented if conveyance capacity in the canals and treatment capacity in the STAs are available, and if lake turbidity around structure S-352 is not high. No releases from the lake into the A-1 FEB for this operational period. Releases from A-1 FEB will be directed to STA 3/4. At this time, the USACE is not requesting the SFWMD to implement lake regulatory releases to WCA-2A or WCA-3A. Releases from STA-1E and STA-1W into WCA-1 and low volume discharges from STA-2 into WCA-2A will continue. Outflows from STA3/4 will be directed to the Holeyland and Rotenberger WMAs.

2008 LORS Release Guidance (Part D): With Lake Okeechobee stage in the Low Sub-band, tributary hydrologic conditions within the Normal classification, and with the lake net inflow seasonal outlook in the dry category, Part D of the 2008 LORS release guidance suggests Base Flow releases: "S-79 up to 450 and S-80 up to 200 cfs". The District recommends that the USACE follow LORS 2008.

Salinity at the US 1 Bridge location in the St. Lucie Estuary increased to the good range for adult oysters. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, salinity conditions remain favorable for tape grass in the upper estuary. Salinity remained in the good range for oysters at the Sanibel Causeway and the Shell Point locations. Salinity conditions at the Cape Coral Bridge crossed into the good range.